Facilities to increase Foodgrains Production

602. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed target of 180 million tonnes of foodgrains production in the country for the crop year 1990-91; and

(b) if so, what are the facilities provided by Government to the farmers for the increased output in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The target of foodgrains production for 1990-91, has been fixed at 176.5 million tonnes.

The targetted production is envisaged to be achieved by increasing the productivity levels through the larger coverage of area under high yielding variety seeds and propagation of adoption of improved production technology with increased use and efficient management of inputs.

To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in popularising the cultivation of high yielding varieties and in propagating the adoption of improved production technology, various crops development schemes are being implemented. Some of the important schemes are:

(i) Minikit Programme of Rice, Wheat and Maize & Millets,

(ii) Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD),

(iii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme—Wheat,

(iv) Special Foodgrain Production Programme—Maize & Millets,

(v) National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), and

(vi) Shallow Tube-well/Dugwell Programme.

Through the above mentioned schemes, assistance is being provided to the farmers for inputs like seeds, micro-nutrients, farm implements, plant protection equipment pesticides etc. These are provided to the farmers to a limited quantity on 50% subsidy in the identified districts. Under IPRD, assistance is also provided to the small and marginal farmers for the purchase of powers tillers in the form of subsidy limited to Rs. 10,000/- per power tiller. This is being done with the objectives to stimulate the farmers for using the inputs in required quantities.

Besides the assistance on inputs, field demonstrations are also being organised on improved production technology on the crops like Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals and Pulses for the transfer of technology.

Status of Industry to Agriculture

603. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to give status of industry to agriculture;

(b) whether the High Power Committee appointed by Government under Bhanu Pratap Singh submitted its report in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the main features of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The High Powered Committee on Review of Agricultural Policies and Programme has submitted its report on 30 July, 1990. The Committee has made a large number of

recommendation on various aspects of agricultural policies and programmes including food security system, export of farm products and issue relating to treating agriculture at par with industry.

Children suffering from birth Asphyxia

604. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that millions of children in the country who suffer from congential asphyxia (lack of oxygen supply at the time of birth) have to suffer life long from a mental retardation and handicap;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in developed countries there is a definite law for safeguarding the interests of these mentally handicapped children; and

(c) if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government to identify such mentally handicapped persons and to safeguard their interests with a view to ensuring them with a happy life with dignity?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELAFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):(a) to (c) Asphyxia is one of the important causes of brain damage in children and it most often occurs during the prenatal period. Brain damage can have many adverse consequences of which mental retardation and cerebral palsy are important. Since 70—80% of the births in India take place at home, no reliable data, regarding the birth asphyxia and the after effects are available.

A few countries like USA and U.K. have enacted law for the compulsory education of the disabled children including mantally handicapped.

Government of India, under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary-agencies provides funds to organisations for understanding programmes of re-habilitation for the mentally handicapped. Setting up of a 'National Trust for Mentally Handicapped' through legislation is also under consideration of the Government.

Enforcement of land ceilings

605. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the Chief Ministers' Conference held on June, 11 and 12, 1990 it was decided not to lower the land ceilings, but only to enforce the existing ceilings more effectively;

(b) if so, what are the existing land ceilings in different States in respect of different types of lands; and

(c) the area of the land rendered surplus as a result of enforcement of land ceilings which still remains to be distributed to the landless peasants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following land ceilings for different kinds of land are applicable in the States:

(Area in Hectares)

Sl. No.	States	Irrigated with two crops	Irrigated with one crop	Dry land
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.05 to 7.28	6.07 to 10.93	14.16 to 21.85
2.	Assam	6.74	6.74	6.74
3.	Bihar	6.07 to 7.28	10.12	12.14 to 18.21
4.	Gujarat	4.05 to 7.29	6.07 to 10.93	8.09 to 21.85